



Front Country Trails
Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Forsell called the regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force to order at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Task Force Member Perkins

ROLL CALL: Task Force Members Present:

Steve Forsell	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Suzanne Perkins	County Parks Commissioner 1st District
James Hickling	County Parks Commissioner 3rd District
Bruce Emmens	Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer Los Padres National Forest
Jeff Bensen	District Recreation Officer Los Padres National Forest

Task Force Members Absent:

Beebe Longstreet	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
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City of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Frye	Associate Park/Natural Areas Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

County of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Erik Axelson	Deputy Parks Director
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Los Padres National Forest Staff Present

Kerry Kellogg	Recreation Specialist, Santa Barbara Ranger District
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CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Speakers:

- Members of the Public: Peter Linfoot, Roxanne Moore, Roger Moore, Eyal Aharoni, James Childress, Paul Donohoe, Ron Takeda, Matt Benko, Dave Lettieri, Kat Post, Philip Friden, Rob Ramirez, David Phreaner, Craig Ilenstine, Luke Werkhoven, Dennis D'Alfonso, Barney Berglund, Christopher Kendall, Patsy Dorsey, Linda Poksay, Brian Johnson, Jed Hirsch, and Cort Flinchbaugh

TASK FORCE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS - None

1. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-jurisdictional Task Force waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 5, 2007.

Motion:

Task Force Members Hickling/Bensen that the Task Force approve the minutes of the regular meetings of September 5, 2007.

Vote:

3/0, Perkins and Emmens abstained.

OLD BUSINESS – None

2. Additional Information on Trail Management Practices – For Discussion

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receive a presentation on additional information related to trail management.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, and Erik Axelson, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Parks

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Forsell compared trail use in Bend, Oregon, saying there are a lot more bikers there, but they do not use bells. He said there are more rules and more information regarding being courteous. Mr.

Forsell said our trails are steeper and do not allow for dual use as they do in Bend, Oregon

- Task Force Member Hickling stated that the additional information provided about the Mid-Penninsula is lacking in detail and needs to include width, length, sight line, etc. He asked that the information be made available for the November 17th worksession.
- Task Force Member Perkins commented that she was impressed with the criteria by which they rated the different trails, and a lot of the policies they made fit what we face here.
 - Mr. Axelson said topography is a key factor. He said he is hopeful the data will be available for the November 17th worksession.
- Task Force Member Forsell commented that it will be difficult to find other situations that are truly similar to what we have in Santa Barbara.
- Task Force Member Perkins indicated that she is impressed with the Mid-Penninsula because they do have a lot of the same issues as Santa Barbara County; they have had some kind of conflict, and came up with resolutions.
 - Mr. Axelson pointed out that a key difference with the Mid-Penninsula is that they are a single-jurisdiction.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Trail User Education and Enforcement Strategies – For Discussion

Recommendation: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) receive a presentation on trail education and enforcement alternatives.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Erik Axelson, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Parks; and Kathy Frye, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Forsell expressed interest in deputizing park patrollers and asked about implementing a deputizing program.
 - Mr. Axelson stated that any staff of the Parks Department or sworn peace officer of the State of California could be deputized, but he was uncertain about deputizing volunteer citizens.
 - Task Force Member Forsell commented that he would like to discuss it further at the November 17th work session.

- Task Force Member Perkins commented that the mountain biking community has expressed interest in this. She stated that there would be many people willing to step forward to help with enforcement.
- Task Force Member Forsell commented that self-enforcement is a good idea. He asked whether there is any chance of bringing all of the groups together to form one group that has a vested interest to work together and do some self-patrolling.
- Task Force Member Perkins said that the Montecito Trails Foundation which has about 1,200 members, consists of hikers, bikers, and equestrians.
- Ms. Zachary said that during the February meeting the Santa Barbara Trails Working Group made the suggestion that there be an umbrella organization that works specifically with the agencies. Ms. Zachary said that is very much in the forefront of everyone's minds.
- Task Force Member Perkins asked whether the Forest Service would find it beneficial to have a County ordinance to give them enforcement authority.
 - Mr. Kellogg responded saying that it might be possible that FCT personnel be given authority through County laws.
 - Mr. Kellogg commented saying that a Special Order could be written to cover a special need – like speeding. He said that is an option.
- Task Force Member Emmens said there is a cooperative law enforcement agreement between Santa Barbara County and the Forest Service, and one of the reasons there is not a full-time law enforcement officer assigned to this district is because of the successful cooperative agreement for managing some of the more rigorous law enforcement problems in the Santa Ynez Recreation Area. He said that is the same level of cooperation could be extended to the FCT.

4. Trail Maintenance and Management Funding – For Discussion

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) receive a presentation on trail maintenance and management funding alternatives.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Kerry Kellogg, Recreation Specialist, Santa Barbara Ranger District; Kathy Frye, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara
- Members of the public: Chris Orr

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Forsell expressed frustration about all funds raised locally on fines not being returned to the local Forest Services for trail maintenance.
- Task Force Member Hickling asked whether there is a current MOU. Mr. Kellogg indicated that it was at the national level.

5. November 17, 2007 Work Session – For Action

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force hold a work session on November 17, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - to discuss FCT management alternatives.

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Steven Dougherty

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Perkins said she would like to spend more time discussing the Mid-Peninsula recommendations and policies, along with Boulder, Colorado's, and possibly other areas' policies. Ms. Perkins expressed that staff and the Task Force can learn from other jurisdictions. She said that the topography and region of the Mid-Peninsula area is very similar to Santa Barbara County in many ways. Ms. Perkins further said regarding the User Group Presentations that if they have new ideas that would be fine, but suggested the groups not bring forward the same presentations as they previously presented.
- Chair Forsell concurred.
- Ms. Zachary clarified that staff would be seeking their comments to the staff recommendations and whether they have alternative recommendations. She said the Task Force received something from the Multi-Use Trails Coalition tonight, and she anticipates they will receive additional input from the other user groups.
- Task Force Hickling commented that the Santa Monica trails information is good and stressed the need to get the data on which they based their decisions. He said their backbone trails system is very well done.
- Task Force Member Perkins concurred. She said these jurisdictions have come up with objective criteria that have proven to work. Ms. Perkins said we need to come up with solutions that will work for most of the people
- Task Force Member Emmens commented that the Santa Monica model is the one true multi-jurisdictional agreement that looks like our situation and asked that we bring forward the MOU that brings those agencies together.
- Chair Forsell thanked staff for their efforts.

The Task Force agreed on November 17, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

At 7:15 p.m., Task Force members Perkins/Hickling that the Task Force meeting be adjourned.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director